



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:** I am looking for the regulations governing the competency testing of Respiratory Therapist in general and specifically on the running of a blood gas analyzer including electrolytes. The blood gas analyzer is operating under the clinical lab license. Can you direct me to the site or send me the regulations governing this?

**Response:** The Respiratory Care Board describes the practice of Respiratory Care in section 3702 of the Respiratory Care Practice Act. Specific competencies for Respiratory Therapists lie with the organization that employs them. They have the obligation to research and develop appropriate policy and procedure that will provide the best outcome to the patient. There are established clinical practice guidelines that can be accessed through the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) or you may contact the California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC) for additional resources. Their addresses are listed below:

American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC)  
11030 Ables Lane  
Dallas, TX 75229  
Ph: (972) 243-2272  
Fax: (972) 484-2720

California Society for Respiratory Care (CSRC)  
505 North Brand Blvd., Suite 740  
Glendale, CA 91203  
Ph: (818) 247-2053  
Fax: (818) 247-2348

Specific regulations regarding the operation of blood gas analyzers can be obtained through the College of American Pathologists (CAP). This agency and the Department of Health Services govern the quality and operational functions of blood gas laborites including electrolytes. There addresses are listed below:

**College of American Pathologists (CAP)**  
325 Waukegan Road  
Northfield, IL 60093  
(800) 323-4040  
(847) 832-7000

**Department of Health Services (DHS)**  
714/744 "P" Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-4171

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